

MEDIA RELEASE

THE
COURT
THEATRE

22 November 2018

For immediate release

[A Christmas Carol](#)

Written by Dan Bain

Directed by Ross Gumbley

1 – 22 December

The Pub Charity Studio at The Court Theatre

Show Sponsor: Phantom Billstickers

Short show description:

Completely sold-out for the last two years, The Court Jesters' fun, family-friendly and interactive version of *A Christmas Carol* is quickly establishing itself as a must-do Christchurch Christmas tradition.

CHRISTMAS COMES EARLY TO THE COURT THEATRE IN A *CHRISTMAS CAROL*

IN BRIEF:

Back by popular demand, The Court Theatre's joyful comedy adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* is returning for more festive fun following two sold-out seasons.

This redemptive comedy is "the Christmas story that people love told in a fun, interactive way," says writer Dan Bain.

Adapted from Charles Dicken's classic tale, *A Christmas Carol* follows miserly Ebenezer Scrooge as he is visited by the ghosts of Christmas who try to encourage him to be a more generous man in the spirit of Christmas.

In Bain's adaptation, two actors and a musician present Dickens' iconic story, with keen audience members used to round out the cast.

Due to the interactivity of the show, no two sessions of *A Christmas Carol* will ever truly be the same and this year will be markedly different with the casting of a brand-new Scrooge, played by Gregory Cooper.

Cooper, a former Court Jester, who was recently seen in Roger Hall's *Easy Money*, is joining co-star Kathleen Burns (*Scared Scriptless; The Early Early Late Show*) and musician Tom Harris for this Christmas production.

For director Ross Gumbley, who is also the Artistic Director at The Court, "*A Christmas Carol* is for anybody who wants to come and have a good time at the end of the year."

A Christmas Carol runs at The Forge at The Court Theatre from the 1 – 22 December.

Principal Sponsor



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Season Sponsor



The Court Theatre

PO Box 268

Christchurch 8140

New Zealand

Email: admin@courttheatre.org.nz

www.courttheatre.org.nz

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IN DEPTH:

Back by popular demand, The Court Theatre's joyful comedy adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* is returning for more festive fun following two sold-out seasons.

Held at The Court's studio theatre, The Forge at The Court Theatre, this redemptive comedy is "the Christmas story that people love told in a fun, interactive way," says writer Dan Bain.

Adapted from Charles Dicken's classic festive tale, *A Christmas Carol* follows miserly Ebenezer Scrooge as he is visited by the ghosts of Christmas who try to encourage him to be a more generous man in the spirit of Christmas.

In Bain's adaptation, two actors and a musician present Dickens' iconic story, with keen audience members used to round out the cast, playing characters such as the Ghost of Christmas past and members of the Cratchit family.

For those nervous about being pulled up on stage, director Ross Gumbley, who is also the Artistic Director at The Court, is quick to reassure that there's nothing to be worried about.

"Our philosophy anytime we involve an audience member is we make them the hero and treat them with respect. We take the fall - we have the joke on us, not on the participant. Nobody's made a fool of."

Gumbley, who is also The Court's Artistic Director, is taking on the directorial reigns as Bain steps down after two years in charge of the production.

"I assume he's very nervous about directing such a prestigious piece of work with such a long and storied track-record of excellence, but I'm sure he'll give it his best," Bain says cheekily.

Due to the interactivity of the show, no two sessions of *A Christmas Carol* will ever truly be the same and this year will be markedly different with the casting of a brand-new Scrooge, played by Gregory Cooper.

Cooper, a former Court Jester, who was recently seen in Roger Hall's *Easy Money* and co-wrote *That Bloody Woman*, is joining co-star Kathleen Burns (*Scared Scriptless; The Early Early Late Show*) and musician Tom Harris for this Christmas production.

Bain has revisited his script this year, writing brand-new jokes to entertain new and returning audiences alike.

For Burns, *A Christmas Carol* is the perfect way to get yourself into the spirit – and remember what Christmas is all about.

"Like many, I lost that special magical Christmas feeling on becoming an adult... But this show brings all the happy Christmas feelings right back!"

Gumbley thinks the show is a great way to celebrate the end of the year – whether you're counting down the days 'till the 25th or see yourself as more of a Scrooge.

"*A Christmas Carol* is for anybody who wants to come and have a good time at the end of the year."

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A Christmas Carol runs at The Forge at The Court Theatre from the 1 – 22 December.

[Click here to read more](#)

Cast

Actress	Kathleen Burns
Actor	Gregory Cooper
Musician	Tom Harris

Creatives

Writer	Dan Bain
Director	Ross Gumbley
Lighting Designer	Giles Tanner
Sound Designer	Tom Harris
Stage Manager	Jo Bunce

Ticket Prices

Adult	\$20
Senior (65+)	\$20
Supporter	\$20
Child (Under 18)	\$15
Group (10+)	\$15

Show Times

- Monday & Thursday 6:00pm
- Tue/Wed/Fri/Sat 7.00pm
- Forum 6:00pm Monday 3rd December
Discuss the play with cast and creative team after the performance
- Matinee 4:00pm Saturday 15th December

Bookings: phone 03 963 0870 or visit www.courttheatre.org.nz

Images can be found at The Court Theatre's [Media Centre](#)

For more information or to arrange an interview please contact:

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